

REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation that, in the Office Action dated December 3, 2004, claims 9-16 were allowed, and claims 4 and 5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, Applicants have rewritten the "objected to" claims 4 and 5 in independent form by amending the independent claim 1. Thus, claims 4 and 5 have been canceled. As amended, claim 1 now includes subject matter recited in the original claims 4 and 5. In addition, Applicants have amended the independent claim 17 to reflect the operation of the optical device, as recited in the allowed claim 9. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claim 17 is now in condition for allowance. The remaining rejected claims 2, 3, 6-8 and 18-20 depend on one of the amended independent claims 1 and 17. As such, these dependent claims include all the limitations of their respective base claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that these dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as their respective base claims.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in view of the amendments and remarks made herein. A notice of allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Helbing et al.

Date: February 22, 2005

By: Thomas H. Ham
Thomas H. Ham
Registration No. 43,654
Telephone: (925) 249-1300